

Art Unit: ***

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--1. (Amended) A data decoding apparatus comprising:
decoding means for decoding one of encoded and encrypted
digital data;

memory means for storing monitoring data; and
charge control means for performing a charging process by
changing the monitoring data in the memory means in accordance
with an instruction of reproducing conditions information
associated with the digital data when the digital data are

--2. (Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising identifier memory means for
storing an identifier of the decoded digital data and decoding
conditions, wherein a log remains in the identifier memory
means after the decoding of the digital data.

--3. (Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising an interface that safely exchanges
data with an external apparatus by encrypting the data,
wherein the monitoring data are stored in the memory means
through the interface.

--4. (Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to
claim 3, wherein the interface has contactless communicating
means.

--5. (Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to
claim 4, wherein the interface has electric power receiving
means;

and the data in the memory means are accessed through the
interface when a power source of an apparatus main body is not
supplied.

--6. (Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising an interface that safely exchanges

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Art Unit: ***

data with an external apparatus by encrypting the data,

wherein log data in the memory means are outputted,
inputted, and changed through the interface.

--7. (Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the interface has contactless communicating
means.

--8. (Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to
claim 7, wherein the interface has electric power receiving
means and the data in the memory means are accessed through
the interface when a power source of an apparatus main body is
not supplied.

--9. (Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein when the digital data are decoded, one of a
part of the reproducing conditions information, all of the
reproducing conditions information, and a result obtained by
performing an arithmetic operation on the reproducing
conditions information is embedded as a watermark that is
decoded into the output data.

--10. (Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein when the digital data are decoded and a
watermark has been added, the data embedded in the watermark
are decoded and the decoded data are outputted when the

Art Unit: ***

2446/81007

decoded watermark data are equal to a normal value obtained from the reproducing conditions information.

--11. (Amended) A data decoding method comprising the steps of:
decoding one of encoded and encrypted digital data; and
performing a changing process by changing stored monitoring data in accordance with reproducing conditions information associated with the digital data when the digital data are decoded.

--12. (Amended) A charge information processing apparatus for relaying monitoring data between a settlement center and a data decoding apparatus, wherein
the charge information processing apparatus is constructed as a portable apparatus shared among a plurality of data decoding apparatuses.

--13. (Amended) the charge information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein communicating means is directly connected to one of a telephone line, an Internet, the telephone line by relaying another apparatus, and the Internet by relaying another apparatus.

--14. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising memory means for storing a log in which a use situation has been

Art Unit: ***

7246/63007

recorded, wherein when the monitoring data are transferred from the memory means to an external apparatus through the interface the log is transferred from the external apparatus to the memory means.

--15. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein when the apparatus is connected to the settlement center the monitoring data settled by the settlement center are transferred to the memory means and a log in which a use situation is recorded stored in the memory means is transferred to the settlement center.

--16. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the interface has contactless communicating means.

--17. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein one of a moving process, a summing process, and a dividing process is performed on a part of the monitoring data among charge information processing apparatuses through the interface.

--18. (Amended) A charge information processing apparatus for relaying monitoring data between a settlement center and a data decoding apparatus, comprising:

communicating means that is one of directly connected to the settlement center through wire communicating means,

Art Unit: ***

directly connected to the settlement center through radio communicating means, and connected to the settlement center by relaying an other apparatus;

retrieval means for safely obtaining the monitoring data from the settlement center;

memory means for storing the monitoring data; and

an interface having means for safely transferring one of a part of the monitoring data and all of the monitoring data to and from an external apparatus.

--19. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the communicating means is one of directly connected to a telephone line, an Internet, connected to the telephone line by relaying the other apparatus, and connected to the Internet by relaying the other apparatus.

--20. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising log memory means for storing a log in which a use situation has been recorded, wherein when the monitoring data are transferred from the log memory means to the external apparatus through the interface the log is transferred from the external apparatus to the log memory means.

--21. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein when the apparatus is

Art Unit: ***

connected to the settlement center the monitoring data settled by the settlement center are transferred to the memory means and a log in which a use situation is recorded stored in the memory means is concurrently transferred to the settlement center.

--22. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the interface has contactless communicating means.

--23. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein one of a moving process, a summing process, and a dividing process is performed on a part of the monitoring data between charge information processing apparatuses through the interface.

--24. (Amended) A charge information processing apparatus for relaying monitoring data between a settlement center and a data decoding apparatus, comprising:

an interface having means for safely transferring one of a part of the monitoring data and all of the monitoring data to and from an external apparatus; and

memory means for storing the monitoring data,

wherein the interface transfers the monitoring data to and from an IC card.

--25. (Amended) The charge information processing

Art Unit: ***

1249/0200
apparatus according to claim 24, further comprising log memory means for storing a log in which a use situation has been recorded, wherein when the monitoring data are transferred from the memory means to the external apparatus through the interface, the log is transferred from the external apparatus to the log memory means.

--26. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the monitoring data are transferred from the IC card to the memory means and a log in which a use situation is recorded stored in the memory means is concurrently transferred to the IC card.

--27. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the interface has contactless communicating means.

--28. (Amended) A charge information processing method of relaying monitoring data between a settlement center and a data decoding apparatus, comprising the steps of:

directly connecting to the settlement center through one of wire communicating means, radio communicating means, and by relaying an other apparatus;

obtaining the monitoring data from the settlement center;

storing the monitoring data; and

transferring one of a part of the monitoring data and all of the monitoring data to and from an external apparatus.

Art Unit: ***

7246/53007

--29. (Amended) A data reproducing apparatus for reproducing one of compression encoded and encrypted digital data, comprising

a decoding apparatus for decoding the digital data,

wherein the decoding apparatus has:

decoding means for decoding the digital data;

memory means for storing monitoring data; and

charge control means for changing the monitoring data in the memory means in accordance with an instruction of reproducing conditions information associated with the digital data to perform a charging process when the digital data are decoded.

2

--30. (Amended) A data reproducing method of reproducing one of compression encoded and encrypted digital data, comprising the steps of:

decoding the digital data; and

performing a charging process by changing stored monitoring data in accordance with an instruction of reproducing conditions information associated with the digital data when the digital data are decoded.

--31. (Amended) A charge information processing apparatus to which one of compression encoded and encrypted software is distributed free of charge and that executes a charging process when the distributed software is decoded, comprising:

storage means that is connected to a user terminal in

Art Unit: ***

7246/63007

which past use history information of software in a user device has been stored through one of wire and radio communicating means; and

authenticating/encrypting means for safely transmitting and receiving use right data to and from the user terminal,

wherein when the use right data are sold to the user terminal the use history information is transferred from the user terminal.

--32. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the use history information includes identifiers for identifying the software and the user terminal.

--33. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein a use fee of the software is further calculated on the basis of the use history information.

--34. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 32, wherein a calculated use fee is paid to a delegator.

--35. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the user terminal has a function for transferring the use right data to the user device.

Art Unit: ***

7245/63007

--36. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the user terminal is portable and shared among a plurality of the user devices.

--37. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the apparatus has a function for selling the use right data to the user terminal.

--38. (Amended) The charge information processing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the software is one of audio data, video data, still image data, character data, computer graphic data, game software, and a computer program.

--39. (Amended) A charge information processing method whereby one of compression encoded and encrypted software is distributed free of charge and a charging process is executed when the distributed software is decoded, comprising the steps of:

connecting to a user terminal in which past use history information of software in a user device has been stored through one of wire and radio communicating means;

performing authentication/encryption for safely transmitting and receiving use right data to and from the user terminal; and

transferring the use history information from the user terminal when the use right data are sold to the user terminal.

Art Unit: ***

7246/63007

--40. (Amended) Electronic money corresponding to cash, wherein a use period is limited.

--41. (Amended) An electronic use right for enabling software that performs operations such as a reproduction of contents, wherein a use period is limited.

--42. (Amended) A system in which one of electronic money and an electronic use right having a limited use period and one of electronic money and an electronic use right having no limited use period exist concurrently.

--43. (Amended) The system according to claim 42, wherein services provided by one of the electronic money and electronic use right having the limited use period and services provided by one of the electronic money and the electronic use right having no use period are [made] different.

--44. (Amended) The system according to claim 42, wherein the electronic money and the electronic use right having the limited use period is provided cheaper than the electronic money and the electronic use right having no use period.

--45. (Amended) The system according to claim 42, wherein a remaining portion of the electronic money and electronic use right having the limited use period is not reduced.

Art Unit: ***

7246/63007

--46. (Amended) The system according to claim 42, wherein an identifier is added to the electronic money and to the electronic use right having the limited use period to distinguish them from the electronic money and electronic use right having no use period.

--47. (Amended) The system according to claim 42, wherein information of the use period is encrypted.

--48. (Amended) The system according to claim 42, wherein information of the use period is protected by an error detection code and an error correction code.

--49. (Amended) A decoding apparatus comprising:
a decoding unit for performing a decoding process to compressed and encrypted data including data read from a medium and corresponding to reproducing conditions;
a storing unit for storing monitoring data; and
a control unit for performing a changing process to the monitoring data stored in the storing unit on the basis of the data corresponding to the reproducing conditions separated by the decoding unit when the read data are decoded and are targets of charging.

--50. (Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, wherein when the read data are not the targets of the charging, the control unit does not change the monitoring data

Art Unit: ***

stored in the storing unit.

--51. (Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, further comprising a converting unit for converting output data outputted from the decoding unit into an analog signal.

--52. (Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, wherein reproduction history information of the read data decoded by the decoding unit are stored in the storing unit.

--53. (Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 52, further comprising a communicating unit, wherein the reproduction history information is outputted to an external apparatus through the communicating unit and the monitoring data are stored in the storing unit.

--54. (Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 53, wherein an operation electric power is supplied to the apparatus from an exterior source through the communicating unit.

--55. (Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the decoding unit comprises a decoder for decoding the encryption performed on the read data and a decompressing unit for decompressing the data decoded by the decoder.

--56. (Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim

Art Unit: ***

1490/03007

49, further comprising a watermark detecting unit for detecting whether a watermark has been added to output data outputted from the decoding unit, wherein when the watermark is not detected the output data from the decoding unit are outputted.

--57. (Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 56, wherein when the data regarding the reproducing conditions are included in the watermark detected by the watermark detecting unit the control unit collates the output data with the data regarding the reproducing conditions extracted from the data read from the medium and outputs the output data from the decoding unit when the data corresponding to the reproducing conditions detected by the watermark detecting unit coincides with the data corresponding to the reproducing conditions extracted from the data read from the medium.

--58. (Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 56, wherein when the data regarding the reproducing conditions detected by the watermark detecting unit does not coincide with the data regarding the reproducing conditions extracted from the data read from the medium, the control unit does not output the output data from the decoding unit.

--59. (Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 58, wherein the decoding unit has a reproducing conditions detecting unit for extracting the data regarding the

Art Unit: ***

/299/8100/

reproducing conditions from the read data.

--60. (Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 57, further comprising a watermark adding unit for adding a watermark formed on the basis of the data regarding the reproducing conditions, wherein when the watermark cannot correctly be detected from the output data outputted from the decoding unit by the watermark detecting unit the watermark adding unit forms the watermark and adds the watermark to the output data from the decoding unit.

--61. (Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 60, wherein when the watermark is correctly detected from the output data from the decoding unit by the watermark detecting unit the watermark adding unit does not add the watermark.

--62. (Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the decoding unit, the storing unit, and said control unit are constructed as one chip.

--63. (Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, wherein when the monitoring data stored in the storing unit indicate that the read data cannot be reproduced[, said] the control unit stops the decoding process of the read data by the decoding unit.

--64. (Amended) A reproducing apparatus comprising:

Art Unit: ***

7246/63067

a decoding unit for performing a decoding process to one of compressed and encrypted data read from a medium and includes data regarding reproducing conditions and;

a storing unit for storing monitoring data; and

a control unit for performing a changing process to the monitoring right data stored in the storing unit on the basis of the data regarding the reproducing conditions separated by the decoding unit when the read data are decoded and the read data are targets of charging;

an operation unit which is operated by a user; and

a system control unit for supplying a control signal to the control unit on the basis of an input from the operation unit.

--65. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 64, wherein when the read data are not the targets of charging the control unit does not change the monitoring data stored in the storing unit.

--66. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 64, further comprising a converting unit for converting output data outputted from the decoding unit into an analog signal.

--67. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 64, wherein reproduction history information of the read data decoded by the decoding unit are written into the storing

Art Unit: ***

unit.

--68. (Amended) A reproducing apparatus according to claim 67, further comprising a communicating unit, wherein the reproduction history information is outputted to an external apparatus through the communicating unit and the monitoring data are stored in the storing unit.

--69. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 68, wherein an electric power necessary for an operation is supplied to said apparatus from an exterior source through the communicating unit.

--70. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 64, wherein the decoding unit comprises a decoder for decoding the encryption performed to the read data and a decompressing unit for decompressing the data decoded by the decoder.

--71. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 64, further comprising a watermark detecting unit for detecting whether a watermark has been added to output data outputted from the decoding unit, wherein when the watermark is not detected by the watermark detecting unit the output data from the decoding unit are outputted.

--72. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to

Art Unit: ***

7246/63007

claim 71, wherein when the data regarding the reproducing conditions are included in the watermark detected by the watermark detecting unit the control unit collates the output data with the data regarding said reproducing conditions extracted from the data read out from said medium and outputs the output data from said decoding unit when the data regarding the reproducing conditions detected by the watermark detecting unit coincide with the data regarding the reproducing conditions extracted from the data read out from the medium.

--73. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 72, wherein when the data regarding the reproducing conditions detected by the watermark detecting unit do not coincide with the data regarding the reproducing conditions extracted from the data read out from the medium, the control unit does not output the output data from the decoding unit.

--74. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 73, wherein the decoding unit further has a reproducing conditions detecting unit for extracting the data regarding the reproducing conditions from the read data.

--75. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 72, further comprising a watermark adding unit for adding a watermark formed on the basis of the data regarding the reproducing conditions, wherein when the watermark cannot

Art Unit: ***

7246/63007

correctly be detected by the watermark detecting unit from the output data outputted from the decoding unit, the watermark adding unit forms the watermark and adds it to the output data from the decoding unit.

--76. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 75, wherein when the watermark is correctly detected from the output data from the decoding unit by the watermark detecting unit, the watermark adding unit does not add the watermark.

--77. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 64, wherein the decoding unit, the storing unit, and the control unit are constructed as one chip.

--78. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 64, wherein when the monitoring data stored in the storing unit indicate that the read data cannot be reproduced, the control unit stops the decoding process of the read data by the decoding unit.

--79. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 69, further comprising a display unit and a modem unit for transmitting the reproduction history information stored in the storing unit through a communication line.

--80. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to

Art Unit: ***

7246/63007

claim 57, further comprising a display unit, wherein data regarding a remaining reproduction possible amount formed by said system control unit on the basis of the reproduction history information and the monitoring data stored in the storing unit are displayed on the display unit.

--81. (Amended) A terminal apparatus comprising:

a first transmitting and receiving unit for transmitting and receiving monitoring data to and from a communicating unit of a reproducing apparatus having a decoding unit for performing a decoding process to one of compressed and encrypted data read from a medium and includes data regarding reproducing conditions, a storing unit for storing the monitoring data and data regarding a reproduction history, a control unit for performing a charging process to the monitoring data stored in the storing unit on the basis of the data regarding the reproducing conditions separated by the decoding unit when the read data are decoded and the read data are targets of charging, and the communicating unit;

a second transmitting and receiving unit for transmitting and receiving the monitoring data to and from an exterior element; and

a data holding unit for holding the monitoring data obtained from the exterior element through the second transmitting and receiving unit and for holding individual identification data.

Art Unit: ***

7246/63007

--82. (Amended) The terminal apparatus according to claim 81, wherein the monitoring data held in the data holding unit are stored in the storing unit of the reproducing apparatus through the first transmitting and receiving unit and through the communicating unit.

--83. (Amended) The terminal apparatus according to claim 82, further comprising a history information holding unit for holding the data regarding the reproduction history transmitted through the communicating unit and the first transmitting and receiving unit and stored in the storing unit of the reproducing apparatus when the monitoring data held in the data holding unit are stored in the storing unit, wherein the data regarding the reproduction history held in the history information holding unit are transmitted to the exterior element outside through the second transmitting and receiving unit.

--84. (Amended) The terminal apparatus according to claim 83, wherein when the data regarding the reproduction history held in the history information holding unit is transmitted to the exterior element through the second transmitting and receiving unit the individual identification information is transmitted with the data regarding the reproduction history.

--85. (Amended) The terminal apparatus according to claim 81, wherein an electric power necessary for operation of the